

APRIL 11, 2012

MAYOR BALLARD, EPA LEADER TO SHARE STORY OF INDIANAPOLIS' CLEAN WATER JOURNEY **City partnered with EPA to deliver innovative solution to polluted waterways**

INDIANAPOLIS – On April 12, as Mayor Ballard and the City of Indianapolis host the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Water Council meeting, EPA Region 5 Administrator Dr. Susan Hedman will speak of the unique partnership between local and federal government that is delivering cleaner water to Indianapolis residents.

Mayor Ballard will introduce Dr. Hedman as the guest speaker at the April 12 noon luncheon at the Westin Indianapolis entitled "Stormwater Management Policy – The Indianapolis Experience and Implementing the Integrated Planning Policy."

Here is the story of that accomplishment:

In 2008, facing significant debt, a budget imbalance and crumbling roads, bridges and sidewalks throughout the city, Indianapolis took a bold approach: re-assessing its 2006 U.S. EPA Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree with an eye to getting cleaner water, quicker and cheaper, while using new sustainable technologies.

The reengineering that resulted from the 2010 EPA renegotiation will deliver better quality water 10 years earlier, all while reducing Indianapolis' debt by \$1.5B. Practically speaking, this means getting billions of gallons of raw sewage out of our waterways, out of residents' backyards, and out of neighborhood cul-de-sacs. Already, residents are seeing drastically less flooding in their neighborhoods. And Indianapolis is saving close to \$1B off of the original price tag to boot.

In fact, later this month we kick off construction on the most significant element of the reengineering: the Deep Rock Tunnel Connector project, which will keep billions of gallons of raw sewage out of the city's waterways.

Through the renegotiation, Indianapolis also secured one-time funding to address significant city improvement needs. Crumbling roads and bridges citywide have been repaired, and neighborhoods that for too long went without sidewalks and curbs now have them.

Plus, many new roads incorporate sustainable storm water technology, and save the city countless dollars on annual pothole repair costs. In fact, year-to-date we've seen a nearly 75% drop in pothole repair requests compared to 2011. And we're getting those repairs done a full 7.5 days sooner!

And on the horizon? Taking advantage of one of Indianapolis' most underutilized economic development assets ... its waterways. Wins for today ... wins for tomorrow ... and cleaner water to boot.

As a result of Indianapolis' success, Mayor Ballard now co-chairs the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Water Council, including testifying on its behalf in February at the U.S. House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment. As his peers across the country reach out to him to learn more about Indianapolis' success, Mayor Ballard and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works have been instrumental in establishing policy and parameters by which some 760 other cities across the country can renegotiate with EPA to provide cleaner water to their residents at less cost.

###

For more information contact:

Paula Freund, Press Secretary

Office of Mayor Greg Ballard – City of Indianapolis

paula.freund@indy.gov; C: (317) 464-7112

www.indy.gov - [Newsletter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Flickr](#)